

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2, 6 and 10 . Support for the new features of the claims is found as follows:

two or more interchangeable lighting units: original claim 8;

respective LED's having respective different emission bands: page 12 lines 4 – 5;

two or more interchangeable optical units (50), and selecting means (55) for selectively associating a lighting unit (15) with an optical unit (50): original claim 9;

an excitation filter (30) located opposite the optical element (20), on the opposite side to the LED (18), to select a predetermined emission band of the LED (18): original claim 2;

each optical unit (50) comprising a hollow supporting body (51) housing a dichroic plate (38) substantially facing the optical element (20) and tilted with respect to the beam from the optical element : original claim 6;

an emission filter (39) carried by said supporting body (51): original claim 7

selecting means (55) comprising a movable first structure (61) supporting the lighting units (16); and a movable second structure (62) supporting the optical units (50); said structures (61, 62) being movable with respect to the housing (17) to selectively position a lighting unit (15) and an optical unit (50) substantially facing each other: original claim 10; and

the optical unit (50) being located downstream from the excitation filter (30): page 8 line 2.

Original claims 1 -7, 11, 12, 15 and 15 were rejected as being anticipated by Lilge et al. Revised claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of original claim 10 and so is distinguished from this reference.

Claims 8 – 10 were rejected as being obvious over a combination of Lilge and Sander and claim 13 as being obvious over Lilge.. It is submitted that neither of these assertions is correct. As noted above, amended claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of original claim 10 and the art cited against original claim 10 will be considered in the context of revised claim 1.

It is submitted that amended claim 1, in view of the amendments, is novel and inventive over the cited art. In fact, none of the cited references disclose all the features of present claim 1, neither alone nor in combination with one another. Actually, even the combination of the cited references would not result in all the features presently claimed by claim 1.

In fact, according to amended claim I :

- the lighting assembly comprises two or more interchangeable lighting units (15) and two or more interchangeable optical units (50)) and selecting means (55) for selectively associating a lighting unit (15) with an optical unit (50);
- the lighting units comprises respective LEDs having respective different emission bands;

- each lighting unit (15) comprises a LED (18), a collimator (20) and an excitation filter (30) located opposite the optical element (20), on the opposite side to the LED (18);
- each optical unit (50) comprises a hollow supporting body (51), a dichroic plate (38) substantially facing the collimator (20) and tilted with respect to the beam from the optical element (20), and an emission filter (39) carried by said supporting body (51);
- the selecting means (55) comprise a movable first structure (61) supporting the lighting units (15); and a movable second structure (62) supporting the optical units (50); said structures (61, 62) being movable to selectively position a lighting unit (15) and an optical unit (50) substantially facing each other, the optical unit (50) being located downstream from the excitation filter (30).

US 6,154,282 (Lilge et al.) does not disclose two units as claimed:

- a lighting unit that comprises a LED, a collimator and an emission filter;

and

- an optical unit:that comprises a supporting body, a dichroic plate and an emission filter.

In the device of Lilge et al. there is a light source (22)) an optical system (18) optionally including a filter, and a dichroic plate (24); but the device of Lilge et al. does not include a further filter (i.e. an emission filter) associated with the dichroic plate and carried together with the dichroic plate by a common

supporting body. Nor does Lilge et al. disclose interchangeable lighting units and interchangeable optical units.

US 200310007365 (Sander) teaches interchangeable lighting units and interchangeable optical units: but in the device of Sander, each lighting unit includes only a light source and an optical element, but no filters, while each optical unit includes only a filter. It should be appreciated that Sander, as also acknowledged by the Examiner, teaches use of interchangeable units because "interchangeable lamps allow a burned-out lamp to be replaced with a spare lamp, so as to minimize the interruption time in the event of a lamp failure ...[and] the filter itself is movable and can readily be replaced with other filters".

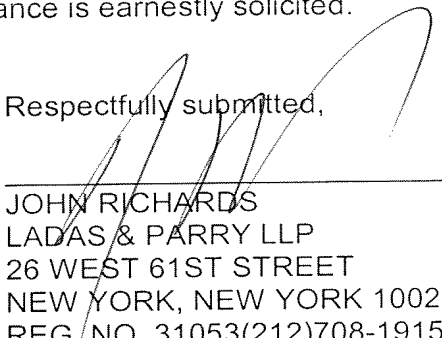
Therefore, Sander teaches to use interchangeable units in view of components replacement (lamps and filters), but not in view of selective use of different sources and optical elements. In particular, Sander does not teach to use different kinds of lamps (for example, LEDs) having respective different emission bands.

Therefore even if one of ordinary skill in the art contemplated modifying the assembly of Lilge et al. by adding the interchangeable lighting units and optical units of Sander, nevertheless the result would not be an assembly having all the features of the claimed invention. In fact, Sander would teach to replace the single light source of Lilge et al. with interchangeable lamps, and the filter of Lilge et al. (i.e. the excitation filter arranged close to the collimator and the light

source, since that is the only filter in the assembly of Lilge et al.) with interchangeable filters. But the ordinary skilled person would be merely instructed by Sander to use a number of equal light sources, to be replaced "in the event of a lamp failure", and not to use a number of LEDs having respective different emission bands. Moreover, Sander would not teach to include in the interchangeable optical unit (that according to Sander merely includes a filter), together with a filter, also a dichroic plate. Thus, the assembly claimed by amended claim 1 is new and inventive over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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